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10 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Assistant to the Director

25X1A

SUBJECT : Office of Training Mission and Objectives and Area Language Programs

REFERENCE : Memo dtd 28 Aug 52 for DCI fr Dir of Trg, same sub, w/att.

In accordance with our telephone conversation of this afternoon, I am returning the attached memorandum with the following brief comments:

The memorandum is misleading in that it states that the value of Area Language Training Programs in general, and the authority of the Director of Training to establish such Programs were questioned by the Assistant Deputy Director (Administration) and the Comptroller.

It was not our intent to question either the value or the authority. As I recall the Budget Hearing, a substantial sum of money was requested for Fiscal Year 1954 to send students to foreign areas for two-year training periods at educational institutions, during which time their only responsibilities would be to go to school, study whatever they wanted to, and learn the areas and languages; they were not to be responsible to any CIA authorities in any given areas and we had no binding assurance that they would actually be available to the Agency after these two-year tours abroad.

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It is explained by Colonel Baird and [REDACTED] that it was not believed feasible to acquire this training through assignments to overseas CIA installations. Also, as I understood the presentation, these area specialists were to be trained for the "Intelligence" Offices, not the "Operating" Offices. In addition, in view of the reluctance of Assistant Directors and Office Heads to release experienced and proven personnel for such periods, as a general rule these trainees were to be new, carefully selected employees with relatively little actual CIA experience.

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I questioned the propriety of undertaking such a Program without the Director's specific knowledge and approval and I understood that such approval had not been specifically given for this Program. I talked with [REDACTED] in Colonel Baird's absence about this paper and he requested that I return it to him. I have, therefore, not attempted to analyze in great detail the attachments to the covering memorandum. In reading them, however, I fail to see where approval of the specific point I questioned has been requested. I have not referred this to the Assistant Director (Personnel) nor the Comptroller for their scrutiny in view of the fact that it is my understanding that you will return it to Training for whatever revision they may care to make.

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Ref as listed above. (ER-3-2263)

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L. K. WHITE

25X1A

Assistant Deputy Director
(Administration)